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## Old town dr. Ante Biankini and his emigrant fate

*The paper presents a fragmentary picture of the life and work of Dr. Ante Biankini, or rather, only the key highlights and lines of future research on this still insufficiently studied, but important physician with undoubted political engagement among the emigrants in the USA. Of course, the focus of interest remains his importance and influence among contemporaries, both at the local, national and international levels of events.*

*Key terms: Dr. Ante Biankini, Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, Croatian emigration in the USA, Thomas Woodrow Wilson.*

The temporal and spatial context of Ante Biankini's life and work begins in Stari Grad on the island of Hvar, namely, he was born on August 31, 1860, into a shipping family. His father Juraj and older brother Dinko, during his upbringing, were involved in the maritime trade of salted fish and wine within the Mediterranean, which enabled them to earn high profits. This was a period of the Great Economic Boom, when this island town recorded positive trends, from material progress to demographic growth and urban development.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, his family (especially the brothers: Don Juraj, Petar and Dinko) were engaged in the regeneration of the Stari Grad municipality, and in the same 1880s, Ante studied medicine in Vienna; upon hearing the news of the victory of the People's Party in the local elections in his hometown in 1887. (after twenty years of autonomist rule), as a young doctor he sent a telegram in which he emphasized how proud he was of the awakened consciousness of his fellow citizens.<sup>2</sup> After completing his studies in 1886, he worked for a while as a doctor in Vienna, and at that time he was also the vice-president of *the Croatian Relief Society there*.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Anagraphs (State of Souls 18th-20th centuries), Parish Archives of St. Stephen; Mladen Domazet, *Stari Grad on Hvar - An island town at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries*, Stari Grad, 2011, 25-33.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Mladen Domazet, *Suton flote vedrenjaka Staroga Grada*, Zagreb, 2004, 94. Ante Biankini, as a medical student, was a member of the Croatian Academic Society "Zvonimir" in Vienna. *Croatian General Encyclopedia*, vol. 2, Zagreb, 2000, 96.

<sup>3</sup> *Sriemski Hrvat*, 20. August. 1887., No. 67., 1-2 (Narodel).



Dr. Ante Biankini

Since the early 1890s, Dr. Ante Biankini has been a permanent resident of Stari Grad (actually since 1890, when his parents' golden jubilee was celebrated); he became involved in political life, and was elected to the municipal administration of the reborn municipality as the mayor of Dr. Ante Spalatin. However, his brother Don Juraj's dissatisfaction with the opportunistic policies of the People's Party in the Dalmatian Parliament resulted in the formation of the People's Club in 1892 at the regional level, which led to a split in the People's Party at the local level in Stari Grad, into those who remained loyal to the party's policies and those who supported Don Juraj Biankini. There is no doubt that these events led to the resignation of Mayor Spalatin, and pushed Dr. Ante Biankini into the opposition. In such new political circumstances in the city, his criticism of the populist municipal authorities was noted, because they had begun to build a municipal building without a complete project and cost estimate.<sup>4</sup>

The following year, in 1893, he married a pianist twelve years his junior, Zlata Albrecht from Zagreb, the daughter of a famous Zagreb printer.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, the Biankini brothers undoubtedly became the most deserving in the affirmation of right-wing politics in Stari Grad, and on the other hand, Dr. Ante Biankini was also involved in the local Public Charity, was among the founders and shareholders of the Croatian Home Society, and was a member of the local Croatian Reading Room.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Domazet, *Old Town*, 25-33.

<sup>5</sup> Milovan Buchberger, *Prominent persons connected with Stari Grad on Hvar*, Stari Grad, 2014, 14.

<sup>6</sup> Domazet, *Old Town*, 26-29, 78, 87.



The Biankini family on the occasion of their parents' golden wedding in 1890.

The year 1896 was a turning point for the family, on the one hand, both of his parents, father Juraj and mother Cvijeta, passed away,<sup>7</sup> and on the other hand, their two-story palace in the immediate vicinity of Hektorovič's Tvrđalj was finally completed, to which Dr. Ante Biankini moved his medical practice.<sup>8</sup> From that period, Dr. Biankini's noble gestures are recorded in local memory, for example, Vicko Paina from Mali Selo notes: *We were poor. My father was lying seriously ill. Dr. Ante Biankini came, examined him and bandaged him, and each time he left, he left us, along with a prescription for medicine.*<sup>9</sup>

Of course, we should not ignore the fact that this was a very wealthy and influential family in Stari Grad. However, Stari Grad was marked by recessionary economic trends in the late 1890s, both due to the consequences of the Wine Clause in the prevailing viticulture (which would deepen the phylloxera epidemic in later years), and due to the loss of its own fleet of sailing ships, until recently participating in the maritime trade in salted fish and Romanian grain, the closure of local shipyards, depopulation processes (in Dr. Bianchini's youth the town had 3,789 inhabitants, and at the beginning of the 20th century it fell to 3,120). Moreover, these negative trends became unstoppable, with entire families leaving with most of their money in one direction. Due to constant emigration, Stari Grad fell to 2,469 inhabitants on the eve of the Great War; at the same time, the processes of provincialization and island isolation became increasingly intense; this context was certainly not negligible,<sup>10</sup> in fact, Dr. Ante Biankini, in his correspondence, speaks precisely about the speed of these changes in his hometown.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Same, 33.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 64-65.

<sup>9</sup> Krunoslav Penović, *My Memories of Zadar, Contributions to the History of the Island of Hvar* (supplement to volume VII), Hvar 1983, 19.

<sup>10</sup> Mladen Domazet, *Fragments of Life - Stari Grad on the Island of Hvar (1914-1941)*, Stari Grad, 2016, 9; text from the exhibition: *The Biankini Family - Revivalists and Benefactors*, authors: A. Ćavić, A. Devlahović, M. Domazet, M. Plenković and V. Stojković, Stari Grad Museum, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Ante Biankini, From a letter from one of our emigrants in 1926, Stari Grad Museum.

Age: 27 years.  
 Stature: 5 feet.  
 Forehead: 7 1/2  
 Eyes: Blue  
 Nose: Medium  
 Distinguishing marks

I, Anton Biankini  
 of the United States; that I  
 the above-named Anton  
 know (him) to be the  
 person, and that the facts

Sworn to  
 [SEAL] James A. Basso  
 Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Chicago

Applicant desiring passport to be sent to the following address:  
Calome, Mick  
95 Alfred Hardeen

A signed duplicate of the photograph to be attached  
 hereto must be sent to the Department with the appli-  
 cation, to be affixed to the passport with an impression  
 of the Department's seal.

One photograph of the applicant must be pasted  
 in this space by the Clerk of Court or the Department's  
 Court or the Agent must be impressed on the photo-  
 graph so as to appear as correct one side, but not the back.

Carl Shellen

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
 STATE OF Illinois,  
 COUNTY OF Cook.

I, Anton Biankini, a NATURALIZED and LOYAL CITIZEN OF  
 THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.

I solemnly swear that I was born at Varigot, Dalmatian Yugoslavia  
 on 31 of August 1860 that my father,  
George V. Biankini was  
 born in Slavonski Brod and is now residing at Slavonski Brod  
 that I emigrated to the United States, sailing from Hamburg, Germany about  
June 1898; that I resided 21 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States,  
 from 1898 to 1919 at 2207 N. 32nd St. Chicago, Ill. that I was  
 naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the U.S. District Court  
 Court of Cook County at Chicago, Ill. on  
23 July, 1916, as shown by the Certificate of Naturalization presented herewith;  
 that I am the identical person described in said Certificate, and I have never outside the United  
 States since my naturalization at the following place for the following period:  
Me from Me to Me  
 and that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Chicago  
 in the State of Illinois where I follow the occupation of Physician & Surgeon  
 My last passport was obtained from New York on Me  
 and was 3 I am about  
 to go abroad temporarily, and intend to return to the United States within 3  
 months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and I desire  
 a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:  
For pleasure in Europe To enable me to visit my family in Europe  
Business of doctor My former permanent place of residence  
Traveler Necessary in Europe  
 I intend to leave the United States from the port of New York  
 sailing on board the Steamship (Name of vessel) Sept 1919  
 (Date of sailing)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.  
 Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United  
 States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;  
 and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help  
 me God.

Sworn to before me this 8 day Sept 1919  
James A. Basso  
 Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 PASSPORTS  
 SEP 23 1919  
 WASHINGTON

117919

Application form for passport issuance (Anton Biankini, 1919)12

Therefore, in addition to Dr. Ante Biankini's professional ambitions, these local reasons, or rather their causal context, are certainly not negligible, which could have influenced his final decision to leave his hometown and to permanently move to the USA with his wife Zlata,<sup>13</sup> where he eventually began working as a surgeon in hospitals in Chicago and New York, and then teaching as an assistant professor at the Northwestern University School of Medicine (1909 - 1914).<sup>14</sup> In fact, in these new circumstances,

<sup>12</sup> "United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV5B-JKYV> : 4 September 2015), Anton Biankini, 1919; citing Passport Application, Illinois, United States, source certificate #117919, Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925, 916, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington DC: National Archives and Records Administration, nd); FHL microfilm 1,631,578.

<sup>13</sup> Domazet, *Excerpts from Life*, 9; Isti, *Stari Grad*, 141-143; *Novosti* no. 193, 15. 6. 1931. (Monumentalno the historical work of our emigrant, Dr. A. Biankini: "American Yugoslavs and President W. Wilson")

<sup>14</sup> *History of medicine and surgery and physicians and surgeons of Chicago*; The Biographical Publishing Corporation, Chicago, 1922, 408; *Croatian General Encyclopedia*, vol. 2, Zagreb, 2000, 96. As a graduate of the University of Vienna, Ante Biankini quickly found a job at Mercy Hospital, where he worked until 1916, collaborating with the famous surgeon John B. Murphy (<http://mojahrvatska.vecernji.hr/prica-o-liječniku-politicaru-i-kriminalnom-sociologu-1095680>).

foreign world, his most productive scientific and writing period began. In addition to surgery, he dealt with the topics of alcoholism and the death penalty, or euthanasia, and in Zadar in 1909 he published the book *Criminal Sociology: Death Penalty - Scientific Murder - Euthanasia*. He also dealt with issues of sociology, ethics and cognition (*American Way of Raising and Schooling* (1910), *Social Problems from a Medical-Legal Standpoint* (1913), *Getting to Know Yourself* (1913), etc.<sup>15</sup>

At the same time, Dr. Biankini shows a special sensitivity to the fates of our emigrants, such as poverty, unhealthy lifestyles, alcoholism, crime, family infidelity, suffering and the lack of direction of our emigrants, which inevitably reflect new life circumstances, or, concludes Dr. Biankini, how America offers them *freedom in drunkenness and orgies, in dances and parades, which is why the people are drawn to something new that they did not have at home*.<sup>16</sup>

In the letters that Dr. Biankini sent to Dr. Ante Trumbiž (and which were analytically processed by Ljubo Antić), special attention is paid to "the social position of the emigrants, the degree of integration into American society, organization, mentality, political culture, attitude towards the homeland, the state of the second generation, in which the process of assimilation is noticeable",<sup>17</sup> but, at the same time, he emphasizes the scale of emigration from the homeland and concludes that *emigration in such numbers is becoming a national danger*. In this sense, Ante Biankini becomes indispensable for research into the social circumstances and various aspects of the everyday and family life of our emigrants in the USA. Although his perspective undoubtedly places greater emphasis on the dark side of our emigrants.<sup>18</sup>

He left Stari Grad as a declared right-winger, whose political beliefs in the foreign world took on an even more pronounced anti-Austrian character;<sup>19</sup> following this lead, in 1908, as president of the Croatian National Defense Committee in Chicago, he signed a Proclamation that succinctly characterized the Croatian-Hungarian Settlement as *40 years of violence and injustice, 40 years of lawlessness and absolutism*, which is why he resolutely attacked the current silence and negligence in the homeland, concluding that it primarily favored the enemies of the people. In addition, he emphasized the importance and need for individual sacrifice for the benefit of the homeland.<sup>20</sup>

He expressed his views in an emigrant newspaper (*Croatian Flag*, which he took over in 1909 and renamed *the Yugoslav Flag in 1917*). In other words, he not only published the same newspaper in Chicago, but also financed it personally, thereby trying to familiarize the American government and the public with the policy of Austria-Hungary in the Balkans, but also with an undoubted editorial policy that was oriented towards the struggle for the liberation of the homeland from Austria-Hungary and the unification of the South Slavic peoples.<sup>21</sup> As part of the national project "Croatian Cultural Heritage" of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

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<sup>15</sup> Same; Buchberger, *Distinguished Persons*, 14.

<sup>16</sup> Ljubomir Antić, Emigrant issues in the letters of Ante Biankini to Ante Trumbiž (1903), *Social Research: Journal of General Social Issues*, Vol. 14 (78-79), Zagreb, 2005, 712.

<sup>17</sup> Same, 705.

<sup>18</sup> Same, 708.

<sup>19</sup> Domazet, *Stari Grad*, 26-29. 20

www.hkv.hr › HKVpedija › Emigration.

<sup>21</sup> Antić, Emigrant Issues, 706.



*The Croatian flag* was digitized - with a total of 942 pages of 60x45 cm format.<sup>22</sup>

Dr. Ante Biankini's interesting and numerous newspaper articles can be found in *Obzor*, *Narodni list*, *Narod*, *Novo dobu...*, in Croatia and abroad, where he published numerous political and cultural contributions. Of course, any future study of Dr. Ante Biankini should include his activities in the field of public media and the extent of his influence on shaping public opinion among emigrants.<sup>23</sup>

On the contrary, dr. Towards the end of his life, in 1931, Ante Biankini in Zagreb's *Novosti* wrote about the fight between patriotic journalism and that poisoned by foreign propaganda, which speaks volumes for how much he understood the importance and role of the media.<sup>24</sup>

B - 5 2 5	
Family name <b>Biankini</b>	Given name or names <b>Anthony</b>
Address <b>3207 Indiana Ave. Chgo.</b>	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) <b>P. 16840</b>	Title and location of court <b>Superior Court, Cook Co., Ill.</b>
Country of birth or allegiance <b>Austria</b>	When born (or age) <b>8/31/60</b>
Date and port of arrival in U.S. <b>6/24/98 x</b>	Date of naturalization <b>7/23/15</b>
Names and addresses of witnesses <b>Stephen D. Ratkovich 1044 W. 18th St.</b> <b>Paul Hajdich 4705 Waveland Ave.</b>	
U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP.	

Certificate of Naturalization (Anthony Biankini, 1915)<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> J. Blažević, V. Kudra Beroš, Digitalization of the newspapers Hrvatska zastava and Radnička straža, 2nd festival of Croatian digitalization projects NSK, Zagreb, 19 - 20 April 2012 ([www.nsk.hr/d-fest/Blažević,%20Jasna.ppt](http://www.nsk.hr/d-fest/Blažević,%20Jasna.ppt)); Digitization of archival, library and museum materials, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb, 2011 ([www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=6376](http://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=6376))

<sup>23</sup> Buchberger, *Eminent Persons*, 14. *Biankini announces what they in Chicago intend to do in the social field and thereby maintain leadership among the Croatian settlements in the USA. Chicago wants to continue working regardless of the right or left in favor of the Croatian cause, and wants: a) to raise awareness and the terribly lacking national education, b) to implement a general organization in the country, c) to create a newspaper that will have access in the homeland and that will work in accordance with the Croatian Party of Rights, d) to allocate the collected donations of approximately 5 thousand dollars so far = (25 thousand crowns) exclusively to unfortunate orphans, widows, brothers who have suffered, the intelligentsia that has been ruined, and expelled students (...)* - Antić, *Iseljenička problematika*, 709.

<sup>24</sup> *Novosti*, 15. VII. 1931., No. 193. (*Monumental historical work of our emigrant, Dr. A. Biankini: "American Yugoslavs and President W. Wilson"*).

<sup>25</sup> "Illinois, Northern District Naturalization Index, 1840-1950," database with images, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXLX-V47> : 12 December 2014), Anthony Biankini, 1915; citing Chicago, Illinois, NARA microfilm publication M1285 (Washington DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 18; FHL microfilm 1,432,018.

Furthermore, his involvement as president of the Yugoslav Committee in the USA (from 1915) and the Yugoslav National Council in Washington (from 1916) is also important, in the context of the Yugoslav Volunteer Action in the USA, especially in the last years of the war.<sup>26</sup> Due to his involvement in the Yugoslav emigrant movement in the USA, he was, in 1916, co-opted as a member of the Yugoslav Committee in London.<sup>27</sup>

He met Thomas Woodrow Wilson by chance in 1911, when Wilson was serving as governor of New Jersey, and when he had a traffic accident in the immediate vicinity of the residence of Dr. Ante Biankini, who also came to his aid and provided first aid. This anecdote marks the beginning of their long-standing friendship, which still needs to be documented in more detail, that is, to shed light on these relationships with a more detailed historical reconstruction, and thus to weigh the adequate historical importance of possible influences against the evident and decisive positions of the USA against Italian claims on our coast, given his previous political engagement and friendly relations with President Wilson.<sup>28</sup> Similarly, for certain events we can look for cause-and-effect logic and correlation, for example, did they happen to be in Dr. Ante Biankini's native Stari Grad during the Italian occupation - 1919. - the ships of the Entente commission sailed in, with the aim of investigating the national mood of its inhabitants,<sup>29</sup> or, that his brother Don Juraj was to be interned in Italy that same year, and that, due to the intervention of the American admiral in Split, he was transferred to another torpedo boat and landed in the Bay of Bakar.<sup>30</sup> At the same time, Dr. Ante Biankini energetically advocated against the implementation of the Treaty of London, which is why he stayed in Paris (at his own expense) until the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty.<sup>31</sup>

An important work by Dr. Ante Biankini is entitled "American Yugoslavs and President W. Wilson",<sup>32</sup> which probably deepens the view of these relations, and represents an indispensable point of reference on parallel processes and circumstances in that period. On that occasion, Dr. Ante Biankini made a statement for *Novosti*: "...I wanted future generations to know here how their fathers knew how to love their homeland and sacrifice themselves for it, so that they could boast of their achievements as a moral capital before the whole world, and especially before the American people with whom they linked their fate in those great days, under the leadership of the immortal leader Wilson."<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Ivan Ćizmić, Volunteer Movement of Yugoslav Emigrants to the USA in the First World War, *Historical Collection* 23-24, 1970-71., 39: Ante Biankini as president of the Yugoslav Committee of the National Council (...) visited the Advisory Commission of the Committee for the National Defense of America in Washington on May 5, 1917 and presented it with a memorandum on behalf of the Council and the Sokol Alliance.

<sup>27</sup> Antić, Emigrant Issues, 706.

<sup>28</sup> *Yugoslavia*, 13. II. 1919, no. 40. (How did Dr. Anton Biankini meet Wilson?).

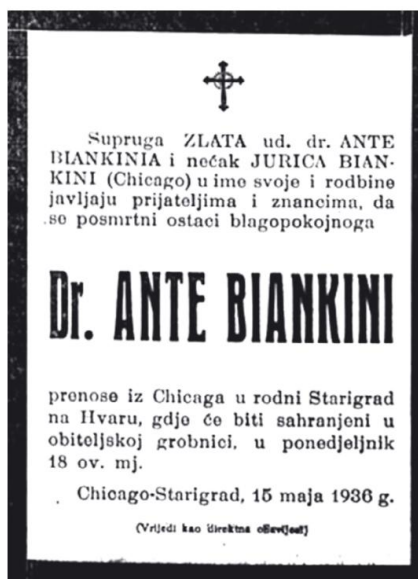
<sup>29</sup> Domazet, *Fragments from Life*, 22-23; Penović, My Memories of Zadar, 19.

<sup>30</sup> Penović, My Memories of Zadar, 22-23.

<sup>31</sup> Same, 18.

<sup>32</sup> *Novosti*, 15. VII. 1931., No. 193., Dr. Biankini briefly describes the book, the reasons why he decided to write it, and lists the titles of the 44 chapters ([http://flps.newberry.org/article/5420779\\_2\\_0507](http://flps.newberry.org/article/5420779_2_0507)). According to available information, the book has not been published ([http://flps.newberry.org/article/5420779\\_2\\_0506](http://flps.newberry.org/article/5420779_2_0506)).

<sup>33</sup> The same. (*The monumental historical work of our emigrant, Dr. A. Biankini: "American Yugoslavs and President W. Wilson"*).



Obituary of Dr. Ante Biankini



Picture with the coffin of A. Bianchini on the occasion of the burial of his remains in Stari Grad



Although far from his hometown, he was firmly connected to his island roots, as Ante Tresij Pavičij, who also visited him in the USA in 1906, testifies to this.<sup>34</sup> This is evidenced by his occasional visits to his homeland, as follows: 1910 (after the death of his brother Dinko, who died in 1909, he came with his wife Zlata and eleven-year-old stepdaughter Goldi);<sup>35</sup> 1914 (the beginning of the war found him in Zadar with his brother Don Juraj, but as an American citizen he managed to leave Europe);<sup>36</sup> 1920 (although he was in the newly established Kingdom of SHS, his arrival in Stari Grad, which was then under Italian occupation, is not recorded);<sup>37</sup> and 1926 (he visited the brothers Don Juraj and Petar shortly before their deaths).<sup>38</sup>

However, in 1933, as a seventy-year-old, he wanted to return to his hometown. Dr. Ivo Stanij Rokotov interceded with the then mayor, Dr. Petr Ružević, to issue documents for Biankini to obtain the citizenship of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, so that King Aleksandar could then appoint him a senator, and thus dr.

Anti Biankini to ensure the necessary existence. This did not come true, because the following year, in 1934, dr. Ante Biankini died in the United States of America. <sup>39</sup> His remains were not brought home until 1936; local historiography has long held that Dr. Ante Biankini's coffin was transported at the expense of the American government, but this statement needs to be substantiated by historical sources and background context in terms of explaining the American government's actions.<sup>40</sup>

although this is also supported by the fact that his coffin was escorted from New York with the participation of an American military detachment, as reported by the press of the time and by Krunoslav Penović in his published memoirs.<sup>41</sup> In the Split port, numerous individuals from the public and political life of the city of Split said goodbye to Dr. Ante Biankini, and of the senior state officials, only Dragiša Cvetković, Minister of Social Policy and Health, was present.<sup>42</sup>

Finally, his remains were brought to Stari Grad in 1936, and buried in the family tomb with the participation of almost the entire town and local associations; Ivan Frano Lupis, in his farewell speech at the funeral, emphasized that *he died poor, remaining pure, noble, proud of his honesty until his death.*<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Estela Banov, Travelogue of Ante Tresij Pavičij, *Croatian Emigrant Collection*, Zagreb, 2015, 248.

<sup>35</sup> *Sloga*, 31 July 1910, No. 31, p. 3 (*Various things from Zagreb*).

<sup>36</sup> Penović, *My Zadar Memories*, 19.

<sup>37</sup> "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J6ZP-R36> : 6 December 2014), Anton Biankini, June 8, 1920; citing departure port Le Havre, arrival port New York, ship name Rochambeau, NARA microfilm publication T715 and M237 (Washington DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>38</sup> "New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KXML-471> : 2 October 2015), Anton Biankini, 1926; citing Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>39</sup> Letter from Dr. Ivo Stanij Rokotov, March 29, 1933, AR.

<sup>40</sup> Buchberger, *Eminent Persons*, 14.

<sup>41</sup> Penović, *My Zadar Memories*, 19.

<sup>42</sup> *Novo doba* 16 V. 1936, no. 114.

<sup>43</sup> *Novo doba* 18 V. 1936, no. 115, 19 V. 1936, no. 116.

## Conclusion

Ante Biankini was born on August 31, 1860 in Stari Grad as the youngest child of the Biankini family, where he attended elementary school, high school in Zadar and studied medicine in Vienna. Under the influence of his older brothers (Dinko, Juraj and Petar), he became involved in local events at an early age, and remained consistent with the political views of his brother Don Juraj. Although his family confirmed its visible material progress and status in the city in the 1890s with the completion of the construction of a two-story palace in the immediate vicinity of Hektorovič's Tvrdalj, the general processes and recessive trends in Stari Grad certainly contributed to his final decision to, together with his wife Zlata, leave their homeland and emigrate to the United States of America. From then on, his rich activity began, on the one hand as a prominent physician in hospitals (Mercy in Chicago and Columbus in New York), and as a lecturer at the Northwestern University School of Medicine. On the other hand, his writing work is extremely fruitful, as best evidenced by published works, from professional to political topics, he became the editor of *Hrvatska zastava*, the most popular Chicago Croatian newspaper. Moreover, of particular importance is his activity among our emigrants and the involvement of Dr. Ante Biankini in the broader political processes of establishing the Kingdom of SHS, that is, his still unclear background role during the Paris Peace Conference, and possible influences on the firm positions of US President Thomas Woodrow Wilson regarding the Italian occupation of our coast (based on the Treaty of London). Thus, this work opens up a wider range of perspectives for the future valorization of Dr. Ante Biankini's work, considering the key events and processes in which he participated, and they form a complete whole. During his life in the USA, Ante Biankini and his family visited Croatia several times (1910, 1914, 1920, 1926), and in 1933 he wished to return to his native Stari Grad. However, death overtook him the following year, 1934, in the USA, where he was buried, leaving behind his wife Zlata and stepdaughter Goldie. After two years, the transfer of his remains to his homeland was organized, and Dr. Ante Biankini was finally laid to rest in the family tomb in Stari Grad on May 18, 1936.

Mladen Domazet - Andrea Devlahovič

## **ANTE BIANKINI FROM OLD TOWN AND HIS EMIGRANT FATE**

### **Summary**

Ante Biankini was born in Stari Grad on the island of Hvar on August 31, 1860 in the family of ship-owners, whose fortune was a result of maritime trade with salted fish and wine throughout the Mediterranean. Already as a medical student in Vienna, he engaged in socio-political issues. After his studies, he returned to his native Stari Grad and became active in local political life, when he was elected to the municipal administration as a member of the People's Party. However, after the schism within the party at the regional level, he went into opposition and became instrumental in the affirmation of the Party of Rights' politics in Stari Grad. For several years he worked as a doctor in Stari Grad, but in 1898 he permanently settled in Chicago with his wife Zlata. Shortly thereafter he started working as a surgeon in Chicago and New York, and later taught as an assistant professor at Northwestern University Medical School (1909 - 1914).

This is his most productive scientific and literary period. In addition to surgery, he deals with issues of alcoholism, death penalty and euthanasia. In addition to scientific work, Biankini was actively involved in the social life of Croatian immigrants in the United States and from the very beginning of life in Chicago he was involved in Croatian transnational politics. He left Stari Grad as a member of the Party of Rights, whose political convictions in a foreign world have taken on an ever stronger anti-Austrian character. He became editor of "Croatian flag" (which he renamed the "Yugoslav flag" in 1917), published numerous articles, at home and abroad. Towards the end of his life in 1931, in Zagreb daily "Novosti" he emphasizes the struggle being waged between patriotic journalism and one poisoned by alien propaganda, which says a lot about how he understood the importance and role of the media. He was particularly politically engaged on the eve of the First World War, acting as President of the Yugoslav National Committee in the US since 1915, and as president of the Yugoslav National Council in Washington since 1916. He was a member of the Yugoslav Committee in London since 1916. His long-time friendship with Woodrow Wilson has yet to be further documented, ie this relationship has to be understood with the detailed historical reconstruction, and thus adequate historical significance of possible impacts against the

evident and decisive attitude of the United States against the Italian pretensions on our coast, given his former political engagement have to be evaluated. His work "American Yugoslavs and President W. Wilson" probably deepens the view of these relations, and represents a crucial point of reference on the parallel processes and circumstances in this period.

While living in the United States, Ante Biankini visited Croatia several times with his family, and in 1933 he wished to return to his home in Stari Grad. However, death has come upon in 1934 in the United States, where he was buried. Two years later, his mortal remains were transferred and on May 18, 1936 he was buried in the family tomb in Stari Grad. The local historiography states that the remains of Dr. Ante Biankini were transferred at the expense of the US government, but such a statement is yet to be substantiated by historical sources, and background context in terms of the reasons for such actions of the US government. (Translation: Andrea Devlahovič)